

the 'Annals.' From early days he gave evidence of a powerful and eminently original genius, and he has continued to develop on these lines until he has arrived at his present eminent position as a practical geologist and philosophic writer. We may confess to a suspicion that such a high-stepper is not best seen in the harness of a text-book: nevertheless the present work is full of instructive matter, whilst the philosophical spirit which it displays will doubtless charm many a reader. No one has shown more convincingly than the author that, in all ways, the past contains within itself the interpretation of the existing world—a truth which biologists should lay to heart. At the same time the geographer is taught to seek an explanation of existing phenomena in the physical revolutions (not necessarily catastrophes) of successive ages.

On a Method to be followed in Prehistoric Studies. [*Sur une Méthode à suivre dans les Etudes Préhistoriques.*] By EUGÈNE VAN OVERLOOP. Svo. 114 pp., with three Maps. Brussels: Muquardt, Merzbach, and Falck, 1884.

In this interesting memoir, dedicated to the Anthropological Society of Brussels, the author insists upon the recognition of the natural surroundings of early man being highly necessary for a knowledge of his ways and habits, and quite indispensable, however much a study of his stone implements and their probable uses may help the inquirer. To this end he has applied himself to a careful examination of a special district, where such relics of prehistoric (er, as he prefers, "premetallic") people are abundant—namely, a part of Flanders to the east of the Terneuzen Canal (Canal de Terneuse).

The general flatness of this country and the complicated intersection of its streams and waterways have not hindered M. van Overloop in his work. Using the ordnance-survey or military map of the district (pl. i., on a scale of $\frac{1}{100000}$), to some extent, with its contour-lines and other indications of the existing condition of the country, the author has carefully examined this particular region (of about 4000 hectares), and mapped the higher grounds as distinct from the alluvial flats (pl. ii., scale $\frac{1}{100000}$), and marked the spots (always on one or other of the plateaus or patches of rising ground) where stone implements have been found. In this he has also judged for himself, by the consideration of natural features, geological characters, the modes of cultivation and occupation, and the run of former channels of the natural drainage, as recorded in old maps and histories. He has also carried his observations on the altered river-courses further to the south-west, and a portion of the national map (scale $\frac{1}{160000}$) is appended for reference. The actual condition of the fauna and flora, forests and marshes, dry land and rivers, wild beasts, birds, and fisheries of the district under notice in early historic times, as noticed in old writings, is detailed; and what was known of the former population by the Romans and others is carefully noted.

Such, then, constitute the data on which the author says that our ideas about primitive peoples can be formed, supplemented by what we can learn about the probable uses and applications of their stone implements, the sole actual memorials of those early men. M. van Overloop's suggested "method of study" is not new to archæologists; but it is here carried out with great care, and illustrated with precision, over a considerable tract of a very interesting country.

Annual Report and Proceedings of the Belfast Naturalists' Field-Club for 1883-4. (Twenty-first Year.) Ser. 2, vol. ii. part 4. Svo. Pp. 215-258, with 18 plates: 1884. With Appendix VIII.: 1885. A. Mayne: Belfast.

SEVERAL pleasant and instructive excursions of the Club to places in the North of Ireland are duly recorded, and the proceedings of the Meetings during the Winter Session. At one of these evening meetings a valuable paper "On the Age of the Basalts of the North-east Atlantic," as deduced chiefly from a study of the fossil plants found associated with them, was read by J. S. Gardner, F.L.S., F.G.S., &c. (pp. 254-290, with a plate, illustrating *Taxus Swanstoni*, *Pinus Bailyi*, *P. plutonis*, *Tsuga Heerii*, *Cupressus Pritchardi*, and *Cryptomeria Sternbergi*). A meteorological summary for 1884 is given at pp. 293-296. An Appendix (No. VIII. of the series) contains Mr. A. C. Haliday's (1) Notes on Irish Colcoptera, edited by Mr. S. A. Stewart; (2) The Cromlechs of Antrim and Down, by Mr. W. Gray, containing valuable notes on the meaning of the word and on cromlechs generally, and on sixteen cromlechs in the County Antrim and fourteen in County Down; these, figured in fourteen sketches, fill seven plates; (3) Notes on the Prehistoric Monuments at Carrowmore, near Sligo; and the Battlefield of the Northern Moytura, by Mr. C. Elcock, illustrated by seven figures in four plates.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

November 19, 1884.—Prof. T. G. Bonney, D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.,
President, in the Chair.

The following communications were read:—

1. "Note on the resemblance of the Upper Molar Teeth of an Eocene Mammal (*Neoplagiaulax*, Lemoine) to those of *Tritylodon*." By Sir Richard Owen, K.C.B., F.R.S., F.G.S.

In this paper the author referred to the genus *Neoplagiaulax*, described by M. Lemoine from the Eocene of Rheims, as pre-